PMI LEBANON CHAPTER **NEWSLETTER**

QUARTER 4, 2024

CONTENT

03 WORD FROM PMI LEBANON CHAPTER
04 MONTHLY TALKS
06 PMI LEBANON CHAPTER NEWS
10 PMI NEWS
11 PMI EVENTS
14 COMMUNITY THOUGHTS
16 WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

WORD FROM PMI **LEBANON CHAPTER**



Dear PMI Community,

Nestled on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Lebanon is a country that seamlessly blends ancient heritage with breathtaking landscapes. Known as the "Land of the Cedars," Lebanon offers a captivating mosaic of nature, history, and vibrant culture that continues to inspire both its people and visitors from around the world.

From the majestic snow-capped mountains to its sparkling Mediterranean coastline, the country's natural beauty is a haven for adventurers and nature lovers. The famed cedar trees, symbols of resilience and eternity, stand tall in the mountains, opening widely their arms to the sky, embodying the spirit of Lebanon's rich history and enduring legacy. The sunrise and sunset are one of the kind, God beautifully draws its painting on Lebanon's sky.

With a history stretching back thousands of years, Lebanon name is one of the oldest country names used continuously. The name "Lebanon" comes from the Semitic root "LBN", meaning "white," likely referring to the snow-capped peaks of Mount Lebanon. It has been mentioned in historical texts for thousands of years.

Lebanon has been a crossroads of civilizations. From the Phoenicians, renowned for their maritime prowess, to the Ottoman Empire, each chapter has left an indelible mark. Iconic historical sites like Byblos, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, and Baalbek's Roman temples are a testament to Lebanon's pivotal role in human history.

Lebanon is a vibrant tapestry of cultures, religions, and traditions. The heart of Lebanon lies in its people. Known for their hospitality, resilience, ambition, and entrepreneurial spirit, the Lebanese community is bound by an unshakable pride in their heritage. The diaspora, spread across the globe, serves as ambassadors of Lebanon's rich culture, contributing to diverse fields and maintaining strong ties to their homeland.

Despite wounds, hardships and challenges, Lebanese people reach out to every soul in needs and continue to rebuild, innovate, and celebrate life, embodying the spirit of the cedar that has weathered countless storms yet remains evergreen.

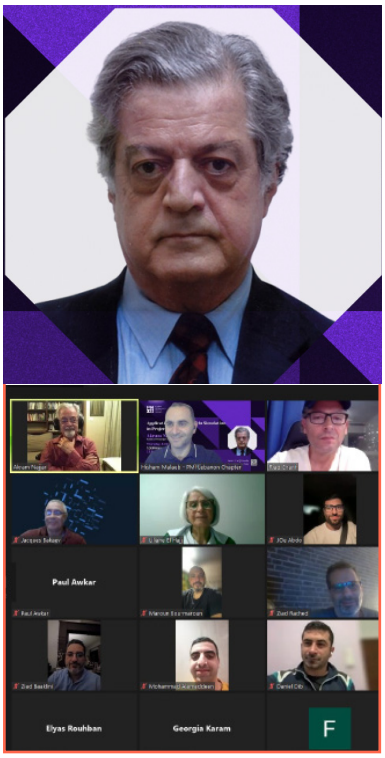
For me, Lebanon is not just a country; it is the soul of my childhood memories, the echo of my laughter in the alleys and paths where I grew up. It is the strong nature's fragrance that shaped my dreams and filled my heart. Lebanon is my source of hope and resilience, guiding me through life's challenges. It is the irresistible charm and enduring mystery that bind me to it, no matter the distance. Above all, it is the spirit of the Lebanese people—a community that are united, cherishes life and finds joy, even in the face of hardship.

As Gebran Khalil Gebran beautifully said, "If Lebanon were not my country, I would have chosen it to be."

Warm Regards,

Liliane El Hajj
Vice President of Finance - PMI Lebanon Chapter

MONTHLY **TALKS**



Application of Monte Carlo Simulation in Project Management

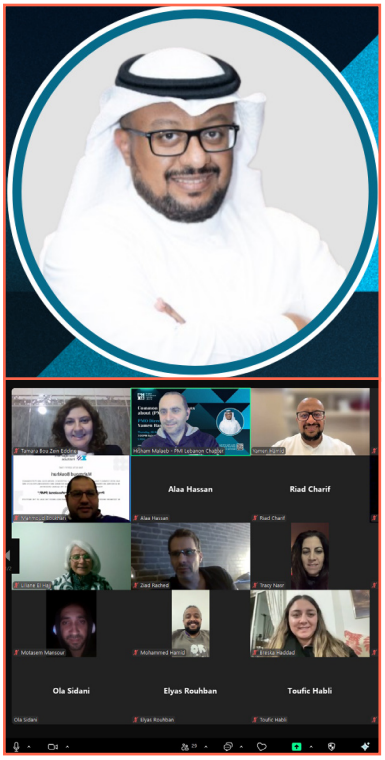
by **Mr. Akram Najjar**

DATE: October 31st, 2024 / TIME: 7:00 pm
SESSION: Online

That evening, Mr. Akram Najjar professional tech engineer past president of our Lebanon Chapter and following the invitation from our VP- Professional Development Hisham Malaeb gave the attendees a very interesting understanding on the Monte Carlo Simulation being a computational technique used in complex systems where deterministic results (or precisely known input values) are difficult or impossible to obtain. Monte Carlo Simulation can be found in off-the-shelf applications. However, the talk had an educational angle where its purpose was to explain how the algorithm works, making it easier for users to acquire such products and use them.

Talking Points:

- Introducing Monte Carlo Simulation
- Presenting 3 commonly used probability distributions
- Presenting the problem via a project network
- Developing the Simulation Model in Excel
- Analyzing the 4 different types of results



Common Misconceptions about PMO

by **Mr. Yamen Hamid**

DATE: November 28th , 2024 / TIME:7:00 pm
SESSION: Online

On this day and after being summoned by our VP- Professional Development Hisham Malaeb
Mr. Yamen Hamid, Saudi PMO director at Almatar in Riyadh with more than 20 years of extensive experience in several industries, clearly explained the common misconceptions about the PMO" by shedding light on misunderstandings that hinder organizations from fully leveraging the PMO's value. By addressing these misconceptions, the session aimed to clarify the true role of the PMO, demonstrated its strategic importance, and show how it can drive efficiency, alignment, and value across projects and organizational goals which delighted the participants.

Talking Points:

- The PMO is just a bureaucratic layer that adds more procedures.
- The PMO isn't necessary for all types of organizations.
- Confusion between the PMO and individual project management.
- The belief that the PMO is only for reporting and monitoring.
- The perception that the PMO doesn't add real value.

END OF YEAR GATHERING

DATE: December 19th, 2024 / TIME: 7:00 pm
SESSION: Onsite Key Apart Hotel

Despite the recent challenges Lebanon has endured, we came together — members and friends alike — to reflect on the Chapter's remarkable achievements at our End of Year Event: Reflect, Recharge, and Realign. Building Bridges for 2025!

One of the highlights of the evening was unveiling a major milestone: the launch of our first-ever Student Board! This achievement underscores our dedication to nurturing future project managers and empowering the next generation of leaders. The president of the student board Mohamad Bahij Jamil expressed how delighted he was to be in the presence of our thriving community and started by introducing the student board members and then followed by announcing some of the student's board future projects with universities across Lebanon for the year 2025.

We were also privileged to welcome Mrs. Dania Chaar from PMI MENA, whose presence added a special touch to the occasion as we celebrated this important step forward together.
This memorable event was a powerful reminder of our community's resilience and the strength we find in one another. Witnessing the growth and unity of this community, even during challenging times, is truly inspiring.
None of this would have been possible without you—our members and supporters. Thank you for your unwavering belief in the power of connection, perseverance, and progress.
Here's to an even brighter future and a stronger PMI Lebanon Chapter in the years ahead!









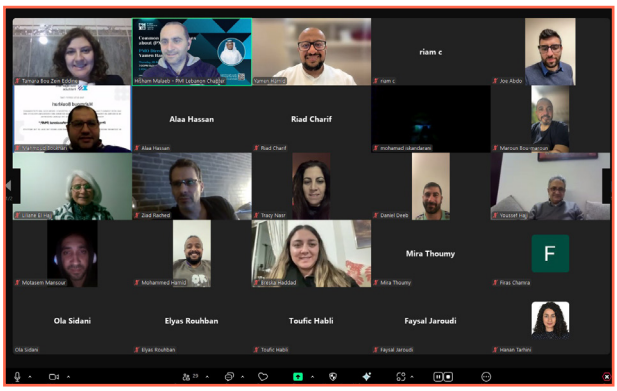
PMILC **NEWS**

During the stressful time witnessed in Lebanon from September to November 2024, the PMI Lebanon Chapter went above and beyond with its existing resources to aid, assist, guide and be present as much as possible to support transfer of knowledge to both members and non-members by making them feel all heard, seen and felt by promoting inclusiveness. To all we say "God bless your hearts".

The war and its aftermath

Mental support

On October 16th & 23rd 2024, PMI Lebanon Chapter organized a timely and insightful session titled "Keeping a Balanced Mindset in Times of War", featuring esteemed Psychotherapist Grace Nakhoul.
Given the current challenging circumstances, this session aimed to provide essential mental health support, offering strategies to maintain emotional balance, manage stress, and foster resilience.
What made this event particularly significant is that, during times of crisis, the chapter opened its doors to both members and non-members, reinforcing the importance of community and mental well-being. It was an opportunity for individuals from all walks of life to gain valuable insights on how to cope with the emotional and psychological impacts of war, whether personally or professionally.
Through this session, attendees explored practical tools for self-care, mindfulness, and staying grounded amidst uncertainty, guided by the expert knowledge of Grace Nakhoul, who brings extensive experience in psychotherapy and trauma support.





PMILC **NEWS**

Social support

Throughout the months of September, October and November, our VP - Volunteers Ziad Ibrahim along with volunteers from all ages assisted the kitchen staff of Faqra catering & worked uninterruptedly throughout several week ends in boxing food packages which were distributed to shelters.





Emotional support

On December 17th, 2024 our PMI Lebanon Chapter President Riam Chazbek, VP- Volunteers Ziad Ibrahim, VP- Governance Mira Thoumy and Mrs. Dania Chaar from the PMI MENA along with VP Communications and Outreach on the Student Board Alaa El Ghali and our volunteer Mr. Mahmoud Boukhari, visited the Children Cancer's Center to provide emotional support to both the staff and the children.

The day included some activities with the children and concluded with a donation from the PMI chapter to the CCC which originally generated from collecting 1.2 tons of plastic, cardboard, glass and electronics delivered to the IPT recyclables office.






PMI Student Board support initiative

The PMI Lebanon Chapter Student Club, in collaboration with the Lebanese American University, showcased the power of community and civic engagement. They prepared 130 hot meals for displaced families in Lebanon. VP- Volunteers Ziad Ibrahim joined hands with the student board and student club members in the kitchen, reflecting the collaborative spirit of the PMI team. VP- Membership Paul Awkar played a pivotal role in coordinating with the NGO responsible for delivering the meals and liaised with the student board to ensure smooth execution. Meanwhile, Mira Thoumy, VP- Governance, coordinated the event. She ensured seamless approvals, logistics, and actively participated in the cooking. Meanwhile, student board's treasurer Hussein Hassan facilitated transactions &ensured every detail was covered.

The students, empowered by the support of PMI and LAU, embraced the initiative with enthusiasm. From selecting ingredients to cooking, to packaging meals, their efforts embodied unity and resilience.
In times of crisis, the student board demonstrated what it means to lead with purpose and compassion. Their commitment to serving their community not only provided much needed relief but also inspired hope and solidarity. This initiative is a testament to the transformative power of collective action and the enduring spirit of the Lebanese people.









The Mediterranean: a Sea of Culture Program

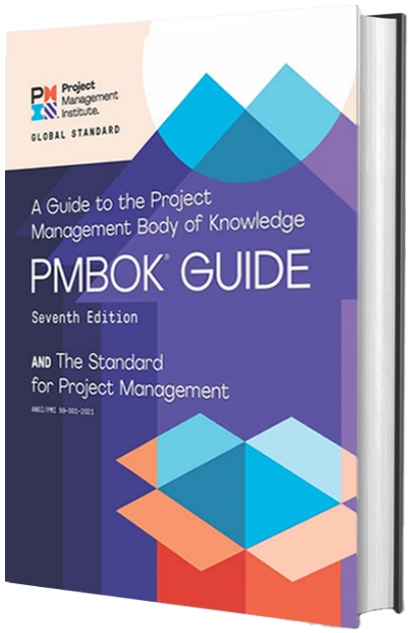
DATE: November 28th , 2024 / TIME: 6:30 pm
SESSION: Online

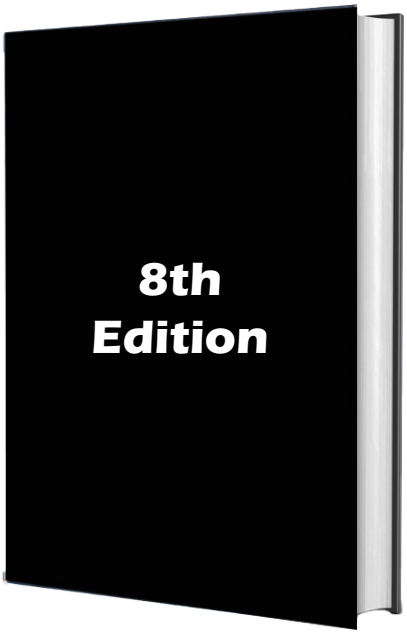
Under the belief of interconnecting project managers from the mediterranean area, PMI Northern Italy Chapter delivered a webinar in the presence of the Lebanese, Tunisian, Greek & Southern Italy Chapters and held a webinar whereby DIET was the main topic!
On the agenda the guest speaker focused on a short & focused strap line:
Diet is not what you eat, is how you live.
The term diet, which originally defines an all-encompassing concept of the way people live, has become synonymous with eating habits only. The original concept of diet is particularly relevant in addressing the major issues related to the Mediterranean diet. By understanding the mechanisms that have made this diet so well-known and cherished, society can move towards developing a more complete and joyful way of eating. The environment provides different types of food. Individuals prepare these ingredients and navigate the challenges presented by the number of available choices. In this webinar, the guest speakers provided a compass to move ahead in the complex world of nutrition.



PMI **NEWS**

It's official, the PMBOK draft guide in its eighth edition is ready for comments by project professionals. While the seventh edition was first published in 2021 and has been with us for almost 4 years, it is time to reshuffle and update some new key concepts and trends. Stay tuned for the new edition!





2025 PMP EXAM UPDATES?

MENA Leadership Institute Meeting

Date: October 18,19 & 20th / Duration 24 hour
Location: Doha

For this years' theme Embrace Curiosity, some of our colleagues from Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, UAE and KSA attended the MENA LIM event this year in Doha-Qatar.
The Master of Ceremony Mrs. Dania Chaar started first by celebrating PMI volunteering from around the world, then by inviting Mr. Chouaib Barnou to the stage who in his turn elaborated how each and everyone of volunteers and members have impacted their chapter members throughout several initiatives, being a mentorship program, partnership program, MOUs with universities or even social activities, followed by a recorded word from our CEO Mr. Pierre Le Manh who is very happy and proud of the work achieved by chapters in the world whose total members have crossed the 13,500 in total. Lastly our CEO focused on the importance of PMI remaining as the leading authority in project management mainly reinforcing the perception of project management whereby "Successful projects deliver value worth the value and expenses"

The attendees were fortunate with the presence of Mrs. Luanne Piccard as Chairperson for the LIM who concentrated on the purpose of PMI which is "we maximize our project success to elevate our world", by also suggesting that each one of us is helping others the way for others by our invaluable contributions.

Regional updates were brought by Mr. Hany Shazly our regional managing director in the MENA used a strapline that was loved by all: more certificates mean a larger community, and that is what we will be building on. His focal points on 2025 strategy revolved around:

- Expand Chapter and Community Growth
- Strengthen and Grow Core Certifications
- Strengthen Academic Engagement





PMI CHAPTER Exchange Collaboration

Date: October 25th, 2024 / Time: 07:30pm / Session: Online.

During the 8th CXP event of 2024, 34 chapters collaborated altogether to discuss the topic of Project Management and its Impact on Society with the spotlight on our Lebanon Chapter.

Speakers and panelists Major Dr. Prebagaran Jayaraman (R) - PMI Malaysia , Dr. Mick Muianga - PMI South Africa Chapter , Carol Martinez - Project Management Institute , Rajesh Angal - PMI Mumbai Chapter , Manuel Ancizu - PMI Madrid, Spain shared their experiences and mastery on the positive impact of project management.

The 34 chapters that attended are
PMI Mumbai, PMI Netherlands Chapter, PMI South Africa Chapter ,PMI Colombo Sri Lanka Chapter, PMI Phoenix Chapter, Global PMI Partners Australia & New Zealand, PMI Zimbabwe Chapter, PMI Indonesia Chapter, PMI Gujarat Chapter, PMI Lima Perú Chapter, PMI Southern Alberta Chapter (PMI-SAC), PMI São Paulo, PMI Kenya Chapter, PMI Ghana, PMI Greece Chapter, PMI Puget Sound, PMI Poland Chapter Silesia Branch , PMI Alaska Chapter, PMI Bangladesh Chapter,



Webinaire: La Durabilite comme Levier Strategique Enterprises et Investissements

Date: December 11th, 2024 / Time: 06:30pm / Session: Online.

As part of our French initiative, the Tunisia, Lebanon and Morocco chapters organized an exceptional event that highlighted the importance of impact investments for our professional community and companies which are committed to a sustainable future.

The attendees were warmly received by the special opening remarks of Mr. Hanny Alshazly, M.Ed., Managing Director of PMI MENA, who underscored the significance of this collaborative initiative between the Tunisian, Moroccan, and Lebanese chapters.

Speakers and guest speakers dived into a captivating discussion with speaker Mrs. Gérardine Mahoro, Founder of ACT05, on how impact investments combine financial returns with measurable long-term outcomes tailored to local realities.

The whole event was moderated by Asma Najjar from the PMI Tunisia Chapter.Chapter, PMI Capítulo Jalisco, PMI Taipei Taiwan; PMI Madrid, Spain; PMI Malaysia , PMI Vietnam Chapter, PMI Mongolia Chapter, PMI Bajio, PMI Guayas, Ecuador; PMI Lahore Chapter! PMI UAE Chapter, PMI Côte d'Ivoire Chapter.



COMMUNITY **THOUGHTS**

WORD FROM THE YOUNGEST LEBANESE HOLDER OF THE PMP CERTIFICATION IN LEBANON



ROMY MASSAAD JAMAL

As I sit down to reflect on my journey with my PMP, I can't help but feel grateful and excited to share my story with all of you. For as long as I can remember, I've been driven by a love for learning and a desire to make a real impact. During my university days, I dreamt of earning my PMP certification—a goal that felt like a distant milestone back then. Fast forward a few years, and here I am, proud to be the youngest PMP holder in Lebanon.

My exploration of project management began with curiosity, passion, and a lot of determination. At 19, I took the leap of starting a social enterprise as a university project. This experience not only introduced me to the power of planning and executing impactful projects but also gave me a taste of the challenges and rewards of leadership. Since then, my journey has been filled with countless lessons.

Joining PMI Lebanon Chapter has been like finding the perfect puzzle piece in my professional life. It's a space where I've been able to combine my love for planning and organization with my heart for innovation and positive change. Whether it's mentoring entrepreneurs or contributing to meaningful projects, PMP has allowed me to grow not just as a professional but also as a person.

What excites me most about being part of this incredible community is the energy we all share to challenge ourselves, embrace new opportunities, and support one another in our unique journeys.
To all my fellow dreamers out there, I want to say this: Your PMP dream, or whatever goal you're chasing, is closer than you think. Stay curious, stay bold, and remember, you're never alone when you have a supportive community like PMI by your side.

Here's to pushing boundaries and making a difference—together!

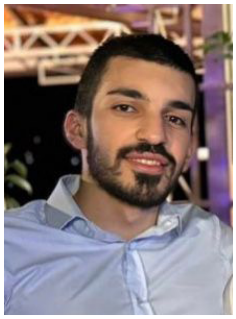
Warm regards,

Romy Massaad, PMP

COMMUNITY THOUGHTS

WORD FROM OUR STUDENT CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

Hussein Hassan



Vice President of treasury on the Student Club

As a fresh undergraduate student stepping into his professional world, PMI has been an excellent starting point for my journey. I joined in July 2024 as the VP of treasury in the Student Club, and within just a few months, the experience has been incredibly rewarding. The passion of professionals of diverse expertise under the Lebanon chapter for continuous personal growth is truly inspiring, creating a ripple effect that motivates other young volunteers, including myself, to pursue career development. This collective effort has driven overall community growth, fostering a unique sense of synergy and empowerment. Moreover, actively engaging with other volunteers through networking and community service has significantly broadened my professional connections, which is crucial for advancing my career, and has allowed me to share ideas and collaborate on meaningful projects. As a board member of PMI's first student club in the MENA region, I am deeply committed to engaging students and young professionals in the field of project management by assisting them with access to PMI resources and working alongside my fellow board members to create various opportunities for growth through networking activities and education. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of this incredible community, and I look forward to continuing to make a lasting positive impact with its vibrant and supportive members.

Alaa El Ghali



Vice President of Communications and Outreach on the Student Board

Receiving that one email from Dr. Mira, my professor at LAU, was truly life-changing. I vividly recall consulting her about switching my major from management to marketing to align with my future career aspirations. During our discussion, I shared my interest in projects, though I had never heard of Project Management or Project Management Institute at the time. My enthusiasm was mainly from my ambition to formulate strategies, manage, and lead in a professional workplace, which is an aspiration that continues to motivate me as I strive to learn and acquire new skills every day.
Today, I am proud to say that I am not only a volunteer with PMI Lebanon Chapter but also honored to be the Vice President of Communications and Outreach on the Student Board. This journey, shared with other like-minded students involved in PMI, has been transformative, filled with meaningful interactions as well as significant personal and professional growth. Together, with the Student Board, I am committed to supporting and guiding students toward becoming highly motivated leaders. We aim to foster daily engagement in impactful projects that reflect our collective passion and dedication.
PMI has fueled my motivation for self-growth and deepened my admiration for aligning personal passion with societal contribution. During my PMI journey, I aim to dig further into Project Management by pursuing certifications such as PMP and CAPM. Above all, I feel immense pride in representing my Lebanese heritage. Despite the challenges we Lebanese citizens faced, I remain eager to prove that our resilience and dedication can drive us toward success and independence.

WELCOMING
NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming new member who joined the chapter in Q4 2024

1. Maroun El Kady
2. Houssam Moallem
3. Michel Lattouf
4. Omar Osman
5. Youssef Khalil
6. Mahmoud Al Moustapha
7. Ahmad Haidar
8. Mohamad Harb
9. Amir D.Bitar
10. Rashad Issa
11. Anas Kaddoura
12. Ali Sayed
13. Peter Obeid
14. Abir Halawi
15. Mahmoud EL Akkoumi
16. Ahmad El Arab
17. Joe Abdallah
18. Salman El Jurdi
19. Zeina Yaghi
20. Mariam Dandachi
21. Omran Terro
22. Maya Ziade
23. Sara Moussa
24. Maya El Khoury
25. Anthony Jreige
26. Sleiman Kfoury
27. Elie El Hajj
28. Jawad El Khoury
29. Alain Tamer
30. Saad Shaar
31. Johnny Hajj
32. Charles Tannous
33. Naim Bechara
34. Aline Dantziguian

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